

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

CITY HALL 1700 CONVENTION CENTER DRIVE MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139
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COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: February 23, 2005

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: **REPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY
26, 2005.**

A meeting of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. Commissioners in attendance: Matti Herrera Bower, Richard L. Steinberg, Saul Gross, Luis R. Garcia, Jr., and Jose Smith. City staff in attendance: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager; Robert Middaugh, Assistant City Manager; Vivian P. Guzman, Director – Neighborhood Services; Kevin Smith, Director – Parks and Recreation; Gary Held, First Assistant City Attorney; Sheri Sack, First Assistant City Attorney; Jimmy McMillion, Special Projects Coordinator – Neighborhood Services; John DiCenso, Police Division Major; Julio Magrisso, Assistant Director – Parks and Recreation; Margarita Alcon; Dolores Mejia; and Randi MacBride. Others in attendance are listed in the attached sign-in sheet.

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROGRAMMING, SCHEDULING, AND USAGE OF THE NORTH SHORE PARK AND YOUTH CENTER.

Kevin Smith, Director - Parks and Recreation gave an overview of the steady growth of the North Shore Park and Youth Center since it opened in June 2004 for the summer program. Partnership has been established with Unidad to assist in the scholarship process and they are actively working to establish additional partnerships throughout the city, not just the north end.

Commissioner Luis R. Garcia, Jr. expressed concern that the facility is not as open to the public as he envisioned. He would like to see the building open for general use and if someone wants to participate in an organized program requiring instructors, there would be a charge and make available scholarships or sponsorships.

Kevin Smith explained that the gym is available for free. The after-school program which is a structured program, is occupying the facility until 5:30 pm. The gym and game-room are then available for youth to use for free until 8:00 pm. At 8:00 pm the gym opens for adults until 9:00 pm for a nominal fee.

Commissioner Jose Smith stated that the meeting is to discuss programming and what the City is doing to attract people. He acknowledged that he has recently seen more banners and signs out there, reaching out to the community.

City Manager Jorge Gonzalez indicated that there was a concern about the application process to determine the eligibility for the free and reduced fees. The application form will be reviewed and revised to assure that it is not burdensome or overly intrusive. In an effort to

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streamline this process, Unidad which does a number of other programs outside of the youth center and has its own screening process has agreed to partner with the City to do eligibility screening for City programs. Additionally, if a child receives free or reduced lunch then they are eligible.

Commissioner Garcia reiterated his opinion that this is a municipal building and should be free to all. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the youth programs are fee based for the organized activities.

Kevin Smith clarified that the baseball field is available to all without a fee unless they want to reserve the field for four hours. There is also the option of having the field lined and manicured for an additional cost.

Robert C. Middaugh described an additional construction phase that will include bathrooms, concession stand, tot lot, and a multi-purpose court which will be in the area where the current parking lot is located.

Commissioner Garcia expressed his concern that the center is not available right after school because it is occupied by the after-school program. He stated that children and teens need somewhere to go after school to stay out of trouble and not everyone wants to participate in an organized activity. In fact, some may not be able to afford it and do not wish to ask for assistance. He would like to see some resolution for this problem. He currently believes that there are not enough basketball courts.

Julio Magrisso responded to Commissioner Bower's question as to when the facility is open on the weekends. On Saturday the entire facility is open and free from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for youth. On Sunday, the gym is open from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Currently there is just not a sufficient turn out for additional services to be open. Surveys have shown that people do not attend on the weekends because it is considered a stay-at-home family day.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that the purpose of this meeting was to report on the programming and use of the facility at the North Shore Park and Youth Center. The programming is no different and probably is more expansive than some of the other facilities around the City because it has more activities and facilities available and will continue to grow. Upcoming events include a Movie in the Park and Sports Expo.

Commissioner Bower raised a question on instructor fees and payments.

The Committee asked that the Administration revisit the methods and policies for contracted instructors for possible improvements in cost and selection and report back at a future meeting.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2003-3411 BY AMENDING THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE LOCATIONS WHERE PANHANDLING IS PROHIBITED AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Action: The Committee moved that the ordinance be revised by the Legal Department with the removal of items 1-4 which designates specific areas where panhandling shall be considered as unlawful. The ordinance will then be brought to the meeting of the full city commission.


JMG/RSM/VP/rfm

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Attachments



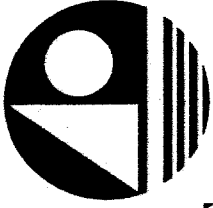
**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

January 26, 2005

SIGN-IN SHEET

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME	ORGANIZATION / DEPT.	PHONE NO.	FAX / EMAIL
Jimmy McMillion	Neighborhood Service	X 6805	
John Di Cenzo	Police	X 5359	
GABRIELLA PEDREAN	RESIDENT / RICARD PARK	305 695 0913	DECONILLAC@HOTMAIL.COM
Sheri Sack	LEGAL	7470	
Gary Heed	"	"	
JOE FONTANA	Mr. Beach City Board	305 861-0054	305 861-0659
JULIO MAGRISSE	PARKS & REC.	6960	7725
AC [Signature]	Support	305 538 9700	x 202
JOSE BERMUDEZ	CMB	6157	7096
[Signature]	CMB PARK	7730	7725



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

January 26, 2005

SIGN-IN SHEET

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME	ORGANIZATION / DEPT.	PHONE NO.	FAX /EMAIL
Robert Middelburg	CMB	6103	
Matthew Spitzer			
Richard Skinsberg	CMB	7103	
Walter Alcon	CMB	60437	
Saul Green	CMB	7104	
Luis Garcia	CMB	7105	
Dolores M. Mejia	CMB	6834	
JRL Smith	CMB	7106	
JMG	CMB		